

east at 10 a. m., and continued in that direction until 3 p. m., when it backed to northeast and later to north. The general drift of air from the Atlantic during the day of heaviest snowfall was to the west across Pennsylvania, then to the south across Ohio and to the southeast over West Virginia where another current was encountered from the Middle Atlantic coast. The meeting and mixing of these two currents appear to have been the cause of the heavy snowfall.

southwestern part of the State also. The heavy snow and the high wind together caused great damage to telephone and telegraph lines, the poles being broken by the hundreds east, south, and southeast of Pittsburgh. The State highway department (Sunday, 29th) reported roads blocked by snow in these districts, and advised only necessary traffic on other roads which were open but still in poor shape for heavy traffic. At Somerset, in Somerset County, 36 inches snow was reported on the

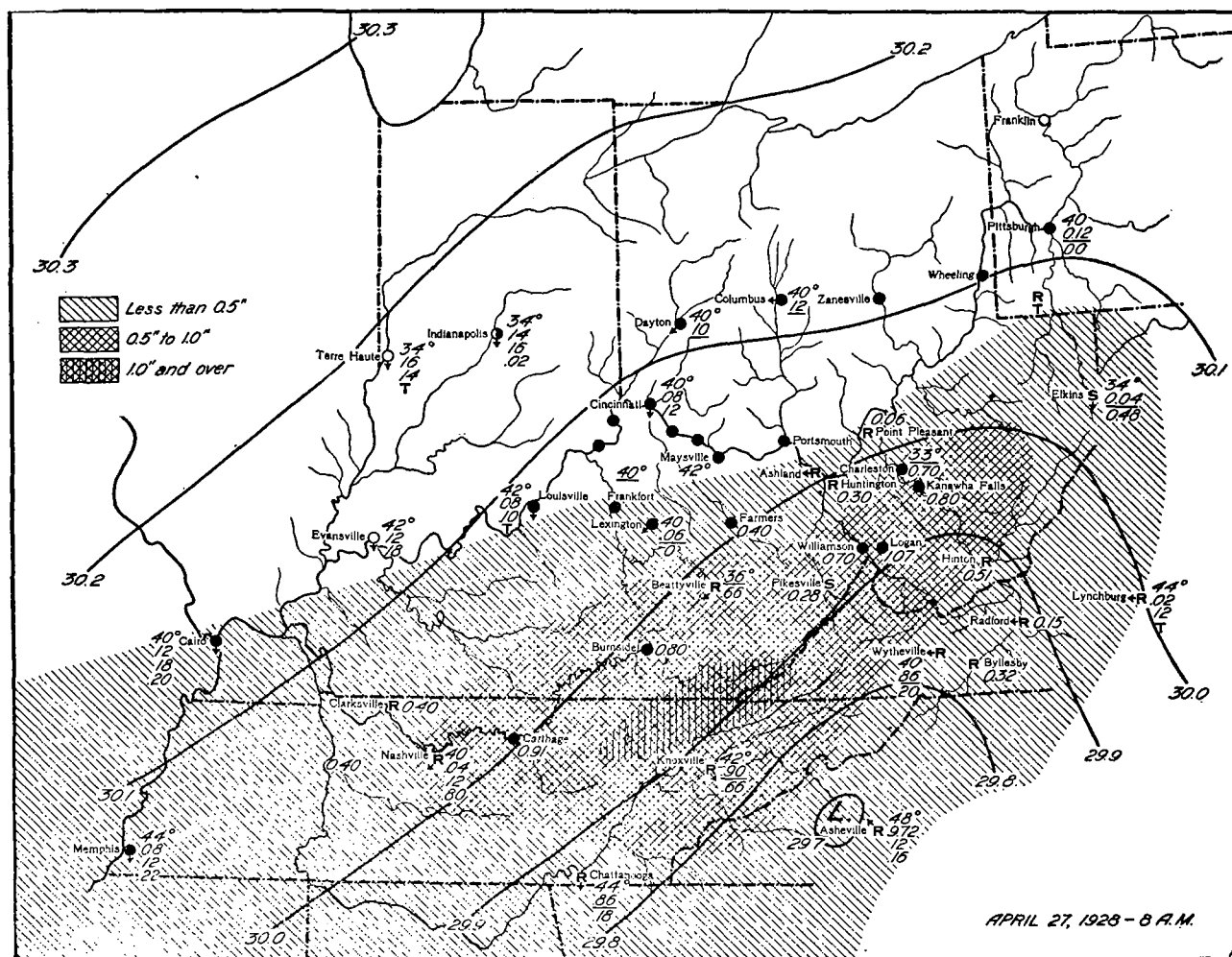


FIG. 2.—Weather map same date as Figure 1 but on a larger base; the map includes detailed data of temperature and precipitation at river stations in Ohio drainage, also temperature, pressure, wind velocity, and precipitation in order named at Weather Bureau stations

Figure 4 shows the total precipitation and the total snowfall for April 27 and 28, 1928. The precipitation is the upper figure and the snowfall the lower figure. One station in West Virginia reported 40 inches of snowfall, several reported 30 inches or more, and 20 inches or more covered nearly one-half of the State. The largest amounts reported in other States were as follows: 36 inches in Pennsylvania, 15.5 inches in Kentucky, 14 inches in Virginia, and 13 inches in North Carolina.

The following extracts are brief descriptions of the heavy snowfall:

By WILLIAM S. BROTZMAN

[Weather Bureau, Pittsburgh, Pa.]

This is the worst snowstorm ever experienced in Pittsburgh so late in the year, and probably the worst for the

ground; at Sand Patch, in same county, between 17 and 18 inches. Very little up the Allegheny, and still less west of Pittsburgh.

By HARRIS A. JONES

[Weather Bureau, Elkins, W. Va.]

The big snowstorm of April 27 and 28, 1928, was certainly a record breaker for April, and lacks but one of being the greatest in the history of the Elkins Weather Bureau station, 30 years record. On April 8, 1902, there was a snowfall of 16 inches, with a maximum depth of 16 inches. November 9, 1913, we had a snowfall of 18 inches, with a maximum depth on the 10th of 20 inches.

The snow started here shortly after midnight a. m. of the 27th, but it was so warm that only on the sod and on roofs did it accumulate until about mid-forenoon. By noon of the 27th we had about two inches of very wet